

# District 25 News

MAKIKI, TANTALUS, MCCULLY, PAPAOLEA

MAY 2008

## The Shortlist

### MAKIKI LIBRARY WEEKLY CLEANUP

The Friends of Makiki Library is looking for volunteers to help prepare the library for its grand reopening. Volunteers are needed to assist with the cleanup and reorganization of the library interiors. To help us bring our library back contact Friends president, Norma Koenig at 586-5190 or [nor-makk@juno.com](mailto:nor-makk@juno.com).

EVERY SUNDAY

Makiki Library @ 2:00-5:00pm

### COMMUNITY-WIDE GRAFFITI PAINT OUT DAY

Join the T.A.G. (Totally Against Graffiti) Team in stopping graffiti in our Moiliili/McCully neighborhood with a half-day cleanup and paint out. Community groups from all over the district will be helping out including the offices of Sen. Fukunaga, Rep. Belatti, and Councilmember Kobayashi, and HPD. Painting supplies and refreshments will be provided.

To RSVP as a volunteer, donate supplies or money, or just for more information contact [tagteamhawaii@gmail.com](mailto:tagteamhawaii@gmail.com) or by phone at 252-4005.

SATURDAY, JUNE 21

Begins at Washington Middle School  
(next to Zippy's on King St.)  
@ 8:00am-12:00pm

### SUMMER FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

To celebrate the reopening of Makiki Library and the coming Honolulu Sustainability Center, Friends of Makiki Library and the Office of Representative Della Au Belatti are organizing a neighborhood festival and fair at the Park. The day-long event will host a variety of fun activities and on-licious food for keiki and adults alike. More information will be announced as details of the event are finalized.

If your organization is interested in helping, please contact Rep. Belatti at 586-9425 or [repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov).

SATURDAY, JULY 26

Makiki District Park, starts at 4:00pm



Aloha Neighbors!

The 2008 legislative session wrapped up on May 1, 2008 after much debate and discussion on renewable energy permitting processes, solar water heaters, and important agricultural lands. These measures, and many others that affect our quality of life, are now being reviewed by Governor Linda Lingle for final passage into law. Governor Lingle has until Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup> to decide whether each bill is signed, vetoed, or passed into law without her signature.

The end of this session marks the end of my first term as your State Representative. It has been a rewarding two years where I have been able to work on developing solutions to the many challenges facing our State and, as always, it is a privilege to represent you and the families of District 25.

During the interim, my office and I will continue to be available for your questions and concerns. Please contact me by phone at 586-9425 or by email at [repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov). I also hope to see you out in the community with the many events and clean-ups that are planned.

Mahalo pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Della Au Belatti".

Della Au Belatti  
State Representative, District 25

*Above photo—MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK (April 30, 2008)—State House Representatives Takumi, Morita, Belatti, and Oshiro offer a smile and share a breather after a 2-hour talk session with neighborhood residents at the Park. Mahalo to these Representatives and all our Coffee Talk speakers for taking the time to share their work with us. We hope to have you back again.*

By BERNA FO

In the past few months, Rep. Belatti and legislative staffers organized a series of eight Coffee Talks, our own style of traditional--but informal--town hall meetings, where community members are invited to speak their concerns and state legislators and public officials respond. The first seven of these meetings were held at specific condominiums

or communities during the course of the legislative session.

At the final community-wide Coffee Talk held at Makiki District Park, residents voiced their opinions on a variety of neighborhood issues such as rising noise levels, problems with pedestrian safety, ongoing vandalism, and the homeless. Residents

also posed questions to Rep. Belatti and guest speakers about the state's current plans for energy self-sufficiency, fiscal responsibility, the lack of affordable housing, and educational funding and facilities.

"It's great to be here and have an opportunity to get this kind of face-

*Continued on page 3*

# Coffee Talk



*The District 25 community speaks on the issues.*



1448/1450 YOUNG STREET (February 20, 2008)--Young Street association members have a pre-Coffee Talk discussion with Rep. Belatti about the persistent problems with pedestrian safety and homelessness in the Beretania Street, Kalakaua Avenue, and Young Street area.



MOTT-SMITH LANILOA (February 27, 2008)--Laniloa residents, who have watched the district change and grow over the years, share their thoughts on mass transit alternatives in other states and countries and the state's physician shortage.



KALAWAHINE SPRINGS (March 3, 2008)--Members of Kalawahine Springs report on the Board of Water Supply issues at the subdivisions entrance. Other issues discussed that evening included distribution of the state budget surplus, the OHA Ceded Lands Settlement, the yet-to-be-released \$500,000 appropriation for the Papakolea Community Development Center, and the development's ongoing infrastructure challenges with the mountainside.



KALAWAHINE SPRINGS (March 3, 2008)--Rep. Belatti hears from individual Kalawahine residents about their concerns after the group discussion.





**PUNAHOU CIRCLE APARTMENTS (April 2, 2008)**--Windy conditions had Rep. Belatti meeting with Punahou Circle Apartments (PCA) residents in the groups parking lot. Hot topic issues included alternatives for greening apartment and condo buildings, the high incidence of neighborhood graffiti, public safety concerns, and the confluence of vehicles, pedestrians and bicyclists in our rapidly growing urban center.



**PUNAHOU CIRCLE APARTMENTS (April 2, 2008)**--PCA residents pose with Rep. Belatti for a group picture after the Coffee Talk session. "I've never had a more energetic group than PCA folks," said Rep. Belatti. "I gotta say, it was truly invigorating to meet with them."



**ARCADIA RETIREMENT RESIDENCE (April 7, 2008)**--Arcadia Director of Programs & Wellness, Ethie Mendonca, Rep. Belatti, and Wesley Lum, Assistant Specialist with the University of Hawaii's Center on Aging and the Convener for the Hawaii Family Caregiver Coalition, are all smiles that day. Guest speaker, Lum, presented the work of the Joint Legislative Committee on Family Caregiving (JLCFC) and the committee's 2008 legislative proposals, including funding for respite care, grants for home modification, additional studies for aging-in-place, and the creation of a separate task force to study grandparents



**ARCADIA RETIREMENT RESIDENCE (April 7, 2008)**--Arcadia residents discuss the challenges of practicing and receiving healthcare in Hawaii with Rep. Belatti.

#### **Coffee Talk** *continued from page 2*

to-face feedback and discussion," said Rep. Belatti. "Sitting in our offices at the Capitol, we can't make enough laws to solve all the problems we have. By seeing the people come out and take such an active interest in their community--is inspiring, and can only lead to more accountability and higher standards at the legislature, because they

know the people are watching."

"[T]he...persons who turned out got a lot out of the information that was given. The audience included those of us who would accept any and all things that you told us, because we are old timers," wrote Helen Rauer long-time Makiki resident in an email to Rep. Belatti about the Makiki District Park talk. "But I think there were more skeptics wondering

what you 'young people' are doing. Hopefully they will go out and tell their neighbors about all the things they heard and will participate in helping solve the problems."

If you would like to find out about the next Coffee Talk, or to schedule one near you, please contact Berna Fo at [fo@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:fo@capitol.hawaii.gov) or 586-9425.

*Pictorial continued on page 4*





**ONE KALAKAUA (April 28, 2008)**--One Kalakaua residents cheerfully greet visiting Rep. Belatti. Residents asked about long-term care insurance, the legislative proposal to ban plastic bags, and homelessness in the neighborhood.



**ONE KALAKAUA (April 28, 2008)**--Guest speaker, Detective Miles Jung from the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) gives One Kalakaua residents a presentation on identity theft. Office Jung's presentation, "Identity Theft: How to Protect Yourself and What to do If You Are a Victim", was full of information about the latest ways identity thieves can strike and how individuals can protect themselves.

## District 25 News

To comment on something written in *District 25 News* or to request regular e-delivery, please write to us at:

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An electronic copy may also be downloaded from the Representative's House Majority web page at [http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemaj/.belatti\\_della.html](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemaj/.belatti_della.html). E-newsletters are usually posted after the hardcopy version is mailed.



**MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK (April 30, 2008)**--Rep. Mina Morita (D- Hanalei, Anahola, Kapaa), House Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, presents Senate Bill 644 which requires the installation of solar water heaters in all new single-home residential developments built after January 1, 2010. Recently passed by the Legislature, and if signed by the Governor, this solar mandate will be the first of its kind in the nation.



**MAKIKI DISTRICT PARK (April 30, 2008)**--Rep. Marcus Oshiro (D-Wahiawa), House Chair of the Finance Committee, illustrates the finer points of the state budget to district residents after the question and answer session.